

Wisconsin Consumer Health Freedom Bill

Comments on Wisconsin's Natural Health Service Providers

Please note this list is not all inclusive. It is a sampling of some providers in the state of Wisconsin. Estimated numbers are marked with an asterisk.

Type of Provider	Comments	Numbers
Naturopathic Doctors	Traditional naturopathic doctors provide nutrition-based suggestions as a part of their approach.	25*
Nutritionists	Wisconsin nutritionists practice natural nutrition, not dietetics.	600*
Homeopaths	These providers also advise on nutrition	50
Herbalists	Wisconsin has a long history of herbal healing	70*
Health Food Stores	Consumers depend on health food stores for specific nutrition information	140
Aromatherapists	These providers also advise on nutrition	unknown
Ethnic Healers	Chinese, Ayurveda, Native American, Hmong healers etc.	unknown
Nutrition Coaches	There are many nutrition coaches providing service in many different venues	unknown
Weight Loss Coaches	Weight Watchers, LA Weight Loss, Curves, Jenny Craig, Over Eaters Anonymous, TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), weight loss centers and programs, etc.	unknown
Network Marketers	At least 14 companies operating in Wisconsin	15,000*
Organic Farms	Also advise on nutrition	807
Natural Health Schools	4 schools with Wisconsin enrollees	786*
Natural Supplement	Wisconsin based major companies with national and international presence	6
Natural Nutrition	Wisconsin based wholesale suppliers	2
Wisconsin Weston A. Price Chapters	20 Wisconsin chapters dedicated to restoring nutrient-dense foods to the human diet through education	183*
Verified and Estimated		17,669



Sieg, Tricia

From: Lyn Vaccaro [ldvaccaro@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 11:56 AM
To: Sen.Lazich
Subject: SB115

Senator...I'm writing this as a testimony of the improvements made in my life as well as my family's, due to the ability to access supplements in health food stores as well as online, or through nutritional consultation. I am hoping you will take this with you to the hearing for SB115 on Sept 17.

I feel that discontinuing the access to these products and people would be highly detrimental to so many with health problems that traditional medicine cannot seem to find answers for. Here's why:

Traditional medicine is very much needed in our society, however so are these alternative health professionals. They provide an approach to health from a different perspective than does traditional medicine. They approach it more "holistically", if you will. This mode of health care considers the workings of the body as a whole, and coming from that stand point, is able to make lots of improvements with nutritional alternatives, because the body is designed to be familiar with nutrients and other forms of nutrition, such as herbs and homeopathic remedies to aid it in it's healing functions.

As a former owner and operator of my own health food store in the 80's called Natural Resources, I saw first hand the improvements made on the health of my clientel baseby implementing these important nutrients and supplements in their lives.

I've seen people improve and recover from serious as well as not so serious illnesses of all kinds. From allergies, immune dysfunctions, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, fertility problems, sleep disorders, and mental illnesses, all with the help of nutrition and supplementation guided by myself and my husband a certified nutritionist.

Implementing these things also is less for insurance companies to pay for because ill people are taking on their own health problems and paying for it themselves in this way.

In my own life, I have improved my own fertility, overcoming age related infertility by eating a raw diet and using supplements like digestive enzymes to help me absorb the nutrition I was eating from the food, as well as nutrition I was getting from supplements. I went on to have 2 healthy baby boys at 43 and 45, after 5 miscarriages upon turning 40!

I have also improved my asthma, and immune dysfunctions with the appropriate supplementation. I need my asthma inhalers much less as a result.

I have 8 kids and have helped them to prevent countless health issues by supplementation, especially during cold and flu season. Just simple vitamin C has done so much in that regard...and it's cheap! I have also been able to avoid taking one of my child's tonsils out by using alternative methods.

I oppose the SB115 bill, it will only complicate the healthcare system more by needing medical professionalsand RD's for things we could do on our own, making us that much more ill as a result.

Please bring this email with you to the Sept. 17th hearing and read it. I hope this testimony can help to move things in a better direction.

Thank you, Lyn Vaccaro--altenative health advocate... I LIVE THIS STUFF!!!

09/17/2009

Dietitian Bill "Fences Out" Nutritionists

Overview

Standard Process Inc. is a Wisconsin-based manufacturer of nutritional whole food supplements, recently named one of America's Healthiest Companies by the Wellness Councils of America. Based out of Palmyra, Wisconsin, Standard Process employs over 240 Wisconsinites, manufactures more than 300 separate products through two separate product lines, is the sole U.S. distributor for an Australian herbal product line, and has been listed as one of INC Magazine's fastest growing private companies in America.

As Standard Process is uniquely positioned in the nutritional supplements market, they have a different perspective on the Dietitian Licensing bill SB-115. The bill, which proposes to define dietitians and subsequently require them to be licensed practitioners, stands as a clear "fence-me-out" bill that would limit personal choice in deciding nutritional issues, and would introduce a great deal of uncertainty and discouragement into the nutritional market.

Details of Concerns

First and foremost, no one has been harmed by the lack of licensing for dietitians. Because of that, the initiative for this bill has not come from the public – it has come from dietitians wishing for a board, licensure and title protection. While this would give dietitians accreditation, it would force out nutritionists who give nutritional and supplement advice.

Secondly, there is no one standard, proven, effective school of thought in nutrition and in the practice of nutrition. Nutrition is a constantly evolving area of knowledge, study and practice. There are a large number of alternative and complementary methods and practices that are used by both dietitians and nutritionists. By adapting licensing, Wisconsin would effectively shut out a number of perfectly acceptable, and many would say effective, alternative and complementary practices and therefore greatly limit the amount of choice in the marketplace.

Third, this bill limits the field of who can advise and disseminate information, and in other places is vague in its regulation – an uncertainty which would lead some to avoid the nutritional market, or risk the threat of lawsuits.

Specific concerns raised by SB-115:

- Creates a special class of individuals who appear to be more qualified than others to provide nutritional information and services based on vague standards.
- Equates and uses synonymously the titles "nutritionist" and "dietitian", and prohibits the use of either term by a practitioner unless a licensed dietitian.
- Is unclear where the line is drawn between merely providing information (allowed without a license) and nutritional advice.
- Monopolizes who determines what constitutes "conventional dietitian teaching" when many such schools of thought exist.
- Places vague limits on healthcare professionals.
- Limits consumer choice in deciding health and nutrition issues.
- Limits and discourages free market and entrepreneurial research and development in nutrition.

Conclusion

In short, Standard Process agrees with the premise of SB-115 – protecting the nutritional standards and well-being of the public at large. But the bill does not do this – if anything, this bill protects dietitians while limiting the range of choices for the public, in turn discouraging economic growth in the industry and discouraging the advancement of nutrition.

hurd

Sept 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I had so hoped I would be able to be there today, but my work is very demanding right now. This is a job that I would not be able to hold if not for the guidance of nutritionists, Supplements and natural healers.

I have suffered with Fibromyalgia for many years. I have been to doctors who have had me try many medications over the years, none of which helped me. Quite the opposite, I was tired and kind of out of it most of the time and still in gret pain. It was not an enjoyable experience. Had I kept going in the manner I was I would no doubt be disabled today.

I chose to look for an alternative way to deal with my desease. I have found ways to control the pain without narcotics. This has come through the guidance of nutritionists, Supplements and natural healers. I still have bouts of the desease that are painful, but I also have the knowledge and assistance of a few great people who always seem to get me through them. I would be lost if I could not consult these people. I do believe in doctors and see them when needed, however I am one of the group who has no health insurance. So if I can find a way to feel better without drugs and alot of expensive treatments and tests that works better, shouldn't I be able to. I am not sure why this bill has come about, but I do know it would be a great loss to many if it is passed. I sincerely hope that you don't take the right away to choose our own path in health care from me and so many others who rely on these people.

Sincerely

Carrie Popple
613 N 3rd St
Cameron, WI 54822
715-205-7148

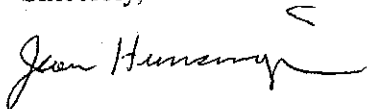
To whom it may concern,

I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 1988. I've been on most of the medications for the treatment of the rheumatoid including the gold injections years ago. I've been to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and currently seeing a rheumatologist in Eau Claire Wisconsin. For the last 5 years I've been on Remicade infusions you've probably seen the commercials on TV. Remicade is very expensive. At my highest dosage were talking over \$6000.00 every 6 weeks. Yes thats right it averaged to \$1000.00 a week.

In July of 2008 I started seeing Karen Hurd a nutritionist. No one had ever talked about my diet effecting the arthritis. After making some drastic changes in my eating habits we've been able to cut my medications by 2/3. I'm feeling much better and can hardly believe it myself. I was basically looking at having to eventually go on disability because of my condition. Now I'm hoping to be able to get completely off my medication. You may ask are you sure the arthritis hasn't just gone into remission. My response is yes because when I go back to my old ways of eating I pay the price.

Karen doesn't prescribe medications. She tells you how to heal your body through food. Not only what to eat but what Not to eat. I see absolutely no harm in that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean Hunsinger", with a small flourish at the end.

Jean Hunsinger
PO Box 763
532 First Street
Chetek, WI 54728
715-642-0966

September 15, 2009

Dear State Legislators,

Please vote no on SB 115 and its amendments.

Several years ago the Barron Area School District had Karen Hurd, a nutritionist, speak to the faculty about diet and nutrition. Her knowledge and experience led many of us to take a second look at our diet and make some changes. Her suggestion that we do what we can to eat a healthier diet and to take small steps did make a difference. Certainly with the concern for health care costs and the obesity problem, as well as other diseases, such as diabetes, this is a positive way to impact lives and our society.

Several of my friends have consulted with her personally, and all have found her advice and counsel to be helpful to their health and well-being.

As citizens and consumers we need to have as many options available as possible. We need to make informed choices and do what we see works for us and is best for us individually. Please allow us this right and freedom in our health choices.

Sincerely,

Lynn Wehn
1213 Second Street
Chetek, WI 54728

Dave

From: Sarah [SLDRIVER@charter.net]

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 12:47 AM

To: Dad and mom

To Whom it may concern:

My mom, Louise Driver, has worked with Karen Hurd for over a year now. The changes I see with in her are amazing. Before she started this "diet," she was always in pain. I would see her sitting on the sidelines alot due to the fact she was to tried to participate or was in to much pain. She didn't come to visit me very often due to her getting tired out really fast. She now comes to Eau Claire almost every week to play with my niece and nephews, visit me and get some shopping done. Its nice to be able to spend time with my mom and not have to stop what we are doing to rest, or for her to take her pain pills.

I see no ill side effects from being on this diet at all. Its nice to have my mom back again.

Sarah L. Driver

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Version: 8.5.409 / Virus Database: 270.13.98/2371 - Release Date: 09/14/09 17:52:00

9/16/2009

Hi I'm ashley althoff and I
could have been going to moms
funeral right now. The doctors gave
her alot of medicines and nothing
worked. If she wouldnt of met Karen
hard she would be dead. if you pass
this bill you are putting alot of
peoples life at steak.

eau Claire WI

ashley althoff

September 14, 2009

Wisconsin State Senate Health Committee
Madison WI
53707

RE: Testimony about SB 115

Dear Honorable Senators:

Due to employment schedules I will not be able to testify in person regarding SB 115 at the hearing today, but want to have input in the process.

While there is need to protect the citizens of WI from harmful medical practices, there are many forms of safe treatment that can achieve similar results to traditional medical practices. Outside the mainstream medical community many alternate healers such as Chiropractors, Acupuncturists, Spiritual Healers, herbalists, nutritionists, and the like offer what can be both effective and inexpensive alternatives to people who do not wish to be medicated or cut upon by the medical community.


I was a skeptic of alternative medicines my self but was directed to a nutritional consultant by a friend. I am borderline diabetic and had glucose levels that were going to push me onto medications at my next visit to the M.D. When I followed the advice of the nutritional consultant my blood sugar dropped to acceptable levels with 3 days. A year latter I am still not on medications. This is saving me and my insurance carrier a lot of money every year and I am more naturally healthy than before.

I believe it would be wrong to regulate, or in other ways limit the practice of people whose primary concern is not treating disease, but helping the body heal itself naturally. In the debate over healthcare that is dominating the news, there is little mention of the advantage of staying healthy as opposed to healing the sick.

I would speak strongly against any type of legislation that would limit or regulate nutritional or alternate healers. It would be wrong and would just tighten the stranglehold that the medical and dietary fields have on our free choice in a course of treatment by reducing our options.

I am not requesting mandatory insurance coverage for these practitioners. The \$125 dollars I spent of my own money during the last year offset many hundred or even thousands of dollars that would have been spent in the medical community treating my condition.

I plead do not take away our right to find health care alternatives that may be right for us. Let us continue our freedom of medical choice.



Kenneth Peterson
N4242 US Highway 63
Ellsworth, WI
54011

WED Sep 10, 2008

State Senator Russ Decker

Called
In

Dear legislators who are working on the SB115 bill.

My name is Autumn Butterfield. I am 19½ years old and have Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA).

I started showing and having symptoms of RA in the spring of 2006 and was finally diagnosed with RA in March of 2007.

I have been seeing Nutritionist Karen R. Hurd since July of 2008. I have had a lot less RA pain and the issues that go with having RA since seeing her.

I want you to vote no to the bill SB115, so I can keep seeing my nutritionist and keep feeling well.

Thank you in advance for making a wise choice to keep me out of pain.

Sincerely,

Autumn Butterfield

Autumn Butterfield
W10644 Peterson Rd.
Ladysmith, WI 54848

1 (715) 868-5369

To Senator Russ Decker

From Marilyn Butterfield
W10644 Peterson Rd
Ladysmith, WI 54848
(715) 868-5369

I would appreciate your voting NO
to bill SB115. I am opposed to SB115 and
its amendments. I am in favor of Health
Freedom legislation.

My daughter and I have both had the opportunity
to receive counsel from a Nutritionist who
works with our family doctor. We have both
been helped through the counsel. My daughter
has rheumatoid arthritis and a high blood pressure
and weight problems. Through the counsel
received, we are both much better.

I feel that it is important to have a
choice in whom a person/family can receive
nutritional information from.

Sincerely
Marilyn Butterfield

1304 Lyndale Avenue
Eau Claire WI 54701
September 12, 2009

Dear Senator XXXXXX

I am writing to urge you to support SB115 to license Registered Dietitians in the state of Wisconsin. The public needs protection from nutrition quacks and charlatans who take advantage of vulnerable people who cannot discriminate accurate, safe and evidence based nutrition therapy from information or therapy based on the personal beliefs of the practitioner or those selling dietary supplements but have no nutrition training.

You don't know me so you have no way of trusting whether the information described below is valid not. I am a dietitian/nutritionist/certified diabetes educator with over 35 years experience, 25 of those with the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Practice in Eau Claire—teaching nutrition to family practice residents in training and providing nutrition therapy to patients. See University of Wisconsin Department of Medicine, Medical Nutrition Therapy Handbook: <http://www2.medicine.wisc.edu/home/naa/medicalnutritionhandbook> for an example of some of my work. Also you may ask Chippewa Valley legislators, Senators Vinehout or Kreitlow or Representatives Smith or Dexter to vouch for me as a credible source.

In the Chippewa Valley we have an unqualified self-proclaimed "nutritionist" with a home study, internet-based nutrition certificate—and so declares herself a "certified nutritionist." This person provides wrong, misleading, and sometimes harmful nutrition therapy to her clients. Although she denies she tells them to stop taking medications or that she changes medications prescribed by their medical doctors, the net effect is that they do. I have enclosed a report describing incidents of harm by this self-proclaimed "nutritionist" based on interviews I did with health care professionals in the Chippewa-Eau Claire area. These are just the tip of the iceberg—I actually cut them off as the word spread that I was collecting these and the phone calls and emails came rolling in. A problem is that each health care professional thinks theirs is the only isolated incident and they have no means of communicating these incidents to each other. The incident reports are anonymous to protect patient privacy and also because the health care providers cannot give their names without permission from their clinic's legal departments. I also find people are afraid to get involved because they are afraid to speak out.

The enclosed reports include two incidents of harm which are potentially fatal, such as taking a young child off insulin and telling a diabetic patient to drink water for a low blood sugar reaction. The nurse practitioner spent 90 minutes talking to the parents of the young child in order to convince them to put the child back on insulin. The patient, who was advised to drink water for a low blood sugar, got scared and did take 15 gm of carbohydrate as advised by her dietitian/diabetes educator.

Mary Frohnauer, MD, endocrinologist formerly with the Marshfield Clinic, has filed complaints against this unqualified self-proclaimed "nutritionist" to the Medical Exam Board, but the MEB could take no action because they have no jurisdiction over dietitians/nutritionists. Also, we have been unable to get sufficient documentation from the patient's medical records for the MEB to take action in a complaint filed as practicing medicine without a license. SB115 would establish both a scope of practice and standards for education for practitioners of nutrition therapy and would protect the public from harm from unqualified practitioners.

Yours,

Elizabeth Spencer, RD, MS, CDE

Attached:
Incidents of Harm from Unqualified "Nutritionist" & Comparison of Registered Dietitians to Unqualified Practitioners

Incidents of Harm by Unqualified "Nutritionists"

Incidents of harm by unlicensed and unqualified "nutritionists" collected from health professionals during 2006-February 2009 by Elizabeth Spencer, RD, MS, CDE. Names of patients, providers, and institutions removed for patient and health professional privacy and fear of litigation.

Without licensure of nutrition services provided by qualified health professionals including Registered Dietitians, there is no recourse to protect the public from harm from unqualified self-proclaimed "nutritionists."

Case 1

A young girl with newly diagnosed Type 1 diabetes was told by the "nutritionist" to stop taking her insulin because the diet prescribed by the "nutritionist" would heal the pancreatic cells and cure her diabetes. There is no known cure for diabetes. Without insulin, severe high blood sugar is likely resulting in ketoacidosis. Without proper treatment, this is potentially fatal. There are numerous cases of Wisconsin parents who withheld treatment from children with Type 1 diabetes which led to the child's death. In this case, the licensed health care provider convinced the parents to resume insulin.

Case 2

Patient with insulin requiring diabetes was advised by unqualified "nutritionist" to drink water to treat low blood sugar because sugar is "poison." Patients with low blood sugar should take a fast acting carbohydrate. Extremely low blood sugar can lead to unconsciousness and is potentially fatal if untreated. This patient tried the water treatment for low blood sugar, became concerned when her blood sugars didn't rise to acceptable levels. She then consumed a fast acting carbohydrate--sugar, and blood sugars quickly reached target levels.

Case 3

A 72 year old male was admitted to a hospital intensive care unit. His presenting symptoms were bradycardia (low heart rate) and just not feeling good. His previous medical history included chronic renal failure (not ready for dialysis), hypertension and previous heart attack. His blood work showed an elevated potassium level of 7.1 (normal range 3.5-5.5) as well as elevated blood urea nitrogen, creatinine and phosphorus. The patient spent 2 1/2 days in critical care and was given 3 days of dialysis. He had previously been told by an unqualified "nutritionist" to eat beans 3 times a day. This diet would provide excessive amounts of potassium and phosphorus which would stress the kidneys of a person with any degree of renal failure.

Case 4

Middle-age woman with scleroderma involving the gastrointestinal tract was receiving all nutrition by vein (total parenteral nutrition). She had nothing by mouth and had no functioning stomach or intestines. The patient was under the care of a gastroenterologist who specialized in scleroderma involving the GI tract. The "nutritionist" advised patient to start bean diet and promised the diet would get her GI system functioning again. The patient was advised not to eat the bean diet by her physician and she did not do so.

Case 5

Unqualified "nutritionist" made adjustments in Type 1 diabetic patient's insulin—changing both types (long acting and short acting) of insulin patient was taking. The patient was advised to stop taking the long acting insulin if bed time blood sugars were within target range. This can lead to lack of insulin overnight and can quickly lead to diabetic ketoacidosis, a condition that may lead to critical illness and even death. The legal department of this major clinic wrote the unqualified "nutritionist" that she does "not have the authorization to change the medication prescriptions" of any the clinic patient without prior discussion and approval of the patient's treating physician. The unqualified "nutritionist" denied ever receiving the letter.

Case 6

A Type 2 diabetic patient with kidney disease and who was excreting significant protein in the urine was advised to eat a high protein diet. A high protein diet is contraindicated for diabetic patients with kidney disease, as there is evidence that high protein concentration in the kidneys can increase kidney damage.

Case 7

"Nutritionist" changed Type 1 diabetic patient's insulin (both types—fast acting and meal based insulin) without consulting patient's treating physician. According to the endocrinologist treating the patient, the "nutritionist's" recommendations were wrong and potentially dangerous.

Case 8

Patient with inflammatory bowel disease, an autoimmune disorder with no known cure, read a book describing a diet to cure inflammatory bowel disease written by an unqualified nutritionist. Patient stopped taking her medication, the inflammatory bowel disease became worse, patient was hospitalized and part of her colon had to be removed.

Case 9

Family practice physician has had numerous incidents of unqualified "nutritionist" telling patients to stop medication prescribed by this physician. Tells patients the medications are "evil." Patient with myasthenia gravis was told that a bean diet will cure this illness. Physician says there is no evidence that diet will cure myasthenia gravis. Also told patient with history of blood clots in the lung to stop taking blood thinner medication and that the bean diet would cure his condition—patient did not stop medication after consulting physician.

Case 10

Patient with congestive heart failure was hospitalized due to excessive edema. Patient had to undergo diuresis after following advice to eat a high bean with and drink lots of fluids. Fluid intake is limited in patients with congestive heart failure to prevent edema.

Case 11

Patient with inflammatory bowel disease was advised to stop his prescribed medication and eat a high bean diet. After following the bean diet for a brief time, the inflammatory bowel disease became worse and the patient had to be hospitalized. After treatment with steroids, the inflammatory bowel disease stabilized but at a more advanced stage.

**Dietetics and Nutrition Services
Provided by Registered/Certified Dietitians Compared to Unqualified Practitioners**

Wisconsin Certified Dietitians & Registered Dietitians	Others Unqualified to Provide Nutrition Therapy
Bachelor of Science-standardized program of study defined by American Dietetic Association	No standards, often self-study of internet courses, sales training for dietary supplements, sales training for marketing dietary supplements
Many RD-CD's have Master of Science from accredited university in nutrition	Various certificates from non-accredited programs or not nationally recognized accrediting organizations
Use scientific evidence-based guidelines for nutrition therapy, including complementary and alternative nutrition (within RD scope of practice) when scientific evidence supports	No standards, often based on personal belief system. May make claims to cure diseases not supported by scientific evidence. Advice may be harmful, e.g. ephedra now banned from sale due to deaths.
Pass National Exam	Varies to none
Continuing Education required	No standards
Standardized and supervised clinical experience and internship	No standards
Coordinate care with other health care professionals. Access to medical record.	Work in isolation outside health care setting. No access to medical record.
Code of ethics prohibits selling dietary products for profit. Cannot promote products that RD's have vested interest in patient buying	None, often primary purpose is to sell dietary products for profit
Rigorous credentialing process with background checks by health care employer & insurance companies	None
Scope of practice defined	None, may cross boundaries to practice medicine or others defined by scope of practice
Recognized by Medicare and Institute of Medicine as sole providers of Medical Nutrition Therapy	Not recognized by Medicare or Institute of Medicine
Public health nutritionists required by Wisconsin statute to be Registered Dietitians	No others defined by statute
Registered Dietitian provide nutrition therapy at Free Clinic under Wisconsin "Good Samaritan" statute	No others recognized under "Good Samaritan" law to provide nutrition therapy
Health care quality and cost containment: Scientific evidence supports that nutrition therapy by Registered Dietitians decreases costs of certain chronic illnesses, decreases pharmaceutical costs, decreases hospital time for post surgery recovery and improves quality of life.	No evidence or based on poorly designed or industry supported "studies" or personal testimonials
Current certification provides no protection to public as no recourse for harm from bad advice. Licensure would provide safety net.	Public at risk from non-evidenced based nutrition services. No recourse if harm. "Credentials" can be purchased by submitting name and check; Several pets have "nutritionist credentials."

Mr Jeff Smith,

I just heard of a bill, SB115, that is to stop nutritionists from practicing.

My friend, Donna Blum, is quite happy because the nutritionist in Augusta, Karen, has her back into life after two and a half years of seeing doctors and taking all sorts of medicines and never getting any better.

In 26 ^{day} weeks with Karen she is now back to driving and doing volunteering just as before. She is writing to you also. We marvel at how she has come back to life.

I heard of this lady in Augusta when our daughter had an accident years ago with her four-wheeler and injured her arm. Karen got her back to super health.

Karen is now working for her masters and it is too bad nutritionists are not working with the doctors.

So, with what I have learned from others this sounds like a bill that should be killed.

Thanking you sincerely,

Betty Gumbert



203 Rosebud Lane
Altoona, WI 54720

715-832-9663

betbg@att.net

September 16, 2009

9-15-2007
3319 Alf Court
Evan Clave, WI
54701

Kathleen Vinehout
31st Senate District
Room 104 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Kathleen Vinehout,
I am writing regarding the Bill
SB 115 I would like to see this
Bill Killed. It is really unfair.

My nutritionist, Karen Hurd, has
done more for me in twenty six days
than the doctors have done in
2 1/2 years. I'm really on my way
to recovery.

When there is something good like
the nutritionists, why do we have
to give them up. I thought this
was a free country.

Please take this letter as a vote
against the Bill SB 115

Sincerely
Dorinda Blum
3319 Alf Court
Evan Clave, WI
54701
Phone 715 831-1957

James W. Barr
W16039 County Road D
Chetek, WI 54728
September 14, 2009

Honorable Senator Russell Decker

RE: SB 115

Senator Decker, my wife Charlotte and I are greatly concerned with the SB115 as proposed by the American Dietary Association. This bill, in our view, is both self serving and un-necessary. The bill has been presented as a "protection" for the citizens of Wisconsin, and this could not be further from the truth. In reality this bill is intended to not only restrict our choices, but would eliminate the rights of all Wisconsin citizens to "nutritional counseling" by the best qualified individuals in our state, educated nutritionists.

Charlotte and I are both 72 year old cancer survivors. After the lingering effects of major surgery and chemotherapy, we both sought nutritional counseling from Karen Hurd of Fall Creek, WI, a graduate nutritionist. Karen explained to us, in clear and simple terms, exactly what happens in our bodies when we consume food and drinks. I have received dietary instructions at the University of Iowa following cancer surgery, and the results were negative. In contrast, however, the advice of Karen Hurd has brought both Charlotte and I extremely good health, and she continues to council us to this day. We needed more then a diet, we needed a change in life style.

Our decision to become residents of Wisconsin was greatly influenced by the health care available in north western Wisconsin through not only the Mayo system, but also the Alternative Nutritional care available. We respectfully ask you not to limit our choices in health care.
Sincerely yours,

James W. Barr Charlotte A. Barr

Dear Senator Sheila Harsdorf,

I understand voting will come up on SB115 next week on Thursday, September 17.

Please vote NO to this bill.

I have seen Karen Hurd and she has helped me beyond what any doctor or other person has done for my health. She is extremely knowledgeable in nutrition. I lost over 20 lbs with her nutritional counseling. My fibromyalgia pain disappeared immensely in my shoulders and throughout my body. I have slept better, have more energy and feel great!. I have never felt this way being treated by doctors with anti-depressants for sleep and pain for over 19 years. Doctors used to think fibromyalgia was all in a patients head. Well doctors don't know everything. A person needs to be "in charge" of their own health - whether it be a doctor or someone like Karen Hurd to assist one in nutrition knowledge, chemistry and understanding how our body works.

Being on the Wisconsin High Risk plan allows me no options for other health insurance. Patients need to do what is best for them. Karen has been a BEST for me. With the state of our nation's health insurance costs rising and millions un-insured, patients need to be able to have a choice. At least I have a choice in choosing Karen. What we put in our mouth's to feed our body's is important. Companies continue to make food taste good by adding more sugar, salt and other additives so we become addicted. This needs to be stopped. Us American's are the largest weighted persons because of this food addiction.

No doctor has ever given me as much information as Karen has. As an American, Karen is "my Choice" and I am glad I have that choice. PLEASE VOTE "NO" on SB115.

Thank you for you time.

Laura Bagan
N6404 County Road K
Menomonie, WI 54751

Debbie Horner
428 Hewitt St.
Eau Claire, WI 54703

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Karen Hurd and others who choose to practice nutrition in a different style than registered dietitians. It is my understanding that there is a bill they are trying to pass that would make it illegal to practice nutrition unless you are a registered dietitian. While I'm sure registered dietitians are very knowledgeable, I have chosen to use the services of Karen Hurd, nutritionist. She is extremely knowledgeable and qualified to instruct on nutrition. I simply cannot understand why there is such strong pressure to pass this bill. We live in a free country and should have the choice of who we see for nutrition counseling. There's nothing right or wrong about either one, they're just different. Leave the choice up to individuals. There are many people in our state who choose to practice nutrition in different ways. Passing this bill will put them out of business. This is no small thing, especially with today's economy. I can't think of one good reason for this bill. If they are saying it is to protect people, that is a thinly veiled lie, being used to promote their business. Please don't let power + money talk, but consider what is best for all. I personally have benefitted + continue to benefit from the services of Karen Hurd.

Sincerely, Debbie Horner
715-834-6859

Sept 16, 2009

Dear Wisconsin State Senator Kathleen Meckand;

I began going to Karen 11 and for nutritional advice in March of 2008. My cholesterol was high and I was overweight. My feet, lower back & hips all hurt. I was tired all the time and had little energy. The amount of sugar I was consuming on a daily basis was very high. I had fallen into a pattern of unhealthy living and didn't know how to get out of it. I could see myself following the footsteps of my father who passed away at the age of 61 from cancer.

Karen is well respected in our community and through word of mouth. I heard that she had a very good reputation for helping people get healthy again, so I began going to her.

Within two months my cholesterol was within normal range and the weight began disappearing.

I am so thankful to say "I am nearly pain free". She is a very intelligent woman with a lot of wisdom and I thank God for her. Please allow her to continue helping people that want to be helped by her knowledge & wisdom. It has been a blessing to me.

Kathleen Meckand
325 Dahlia Lane
Altadena, WI 54002

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH
Testimonial of Cindy Donnelly
September 17, 2009

In the past 3 years we have experienced a journey of emotional lament, from a sickness we knew little about that took my health to the lowest I have ever been, to the joyful road of recovery and hope. I say we because my sickness affected our whole family and brought great stress on each member.

We were living a typical stressful American life; always on the go. We thought we could do it all. We home schooled our two children with the challenges and responsibilities that go with that commitment. We labored in love through the adoption process of our son Sujay. The immunizations we had to take before going to India were overwhelming to my body. I was sick for several days after each regimen. Our daughter had rheumatic fever several years prior, which in both cases, were misdiagnosed by the doctors in Eau Claire.

Our lifestyle was such that I did not always eat a healthy diet. I ate lots of sugar, little fiber and an insufficient amount of protein. I ate lots of carbohydrates and would often experience blood sugar drops but kept right on going. For years I had trouble sleeping which kept getting worse with time. In the summer of 2006, we had our basement painted and within days I went from relatively functioning to barely moving. I became fatigued, my ears were plugged, I had difficulty breathing, my heart was pounding wildly and my anxiety level was extremely high. We went from doctor to doctor to find answers and relief. Some said they just didn't know. Others gave misdiagnoses. I was put on an array of drugs to see if they would help, which none did. One doctor put me on a wheat free, dairy free, sugar free, egg free diet. I tried it for 7 months and lost 40 pounds and was weaker than I had been. I was in and out of the hospital because of severe diarrhea and had to have IV's to restore fluids and electrolytes that were lost. I had to be in bed a

lot of the time. I taught my kids school lessons from bed as I struggled to breathe while trying to read to them. My husband Mark had to take time off work to help teach the kids. He took over all the household duties. He told me later that he was fearful to come in to check on me in the morning, afraid that I would be dead.

We decided we were going to look for another avenue of help. We were in a place of desperation when we became aware of Karen Hurd's practice. The day I met Karen, I could hardly eat because of digestive problems. I had pain throughout my body, symptoms of bradycardia, insomnia, chemical sensitivities, hormonal imbalances, difficulty breathing and anxiety. Karen gave me her diet plan and I began right away to eat only what she suggested. In a couple of months I started to feel better. I was on the bean diet for seven months when the doctor I was seeing, removed my medication too quickly. I went into withdrawals which were aggravated by what I now knew was adrenal fatigue. I had adrenalin surges continuously for two months and could not sleep at all. I thought I would go literally crazy. Karen did not abandon me but kept encouraging me when I was at the lowest point possible. I went to see a different doctor who helped me adjust my medication. After months of recovery again I began to feel better and continued upward, gaining strength and a new hope that I would win this battle with my health.

I have worked with Karen for almost two and a half years now. This past April I was able to attend the Viennese Ball with my husband. We danced most of the night and had a wonderful time. I came to Karen Hurd, a nutritionist, with chronic fatigue and chemical sensitivities, having been passed off and harmed at the hands of certain doctors. I am amazingly not opposed to doctors but I am glad that I had the right to choose to see a

nutritionist. An extremely gifted, educated and compassionate one, who in my opinion saved my life. I'm just beginning to really live again!

I am here to testify that I was helped by a nutritionist and if this bill, SB115 would have been law, I would not have had that choice. I hate to think of where I might be now. I'm glad I live in America and have the privilege of making my own choices about my healthcare. I oppose bill SB115 and its amendments. Thank you.

September 17, 2009

Re: Personal Testimony

Wisconsin Legislators:

My non-registered nutritionist → I want to introduce myself to you because I am someone whose life has completely changed since I have known and worked with Karen Hurd. My name is Lisa Kundel, I am 42 years old and I am a wife of 21 years to my husband and a mother to our 18 year old son and 16 year old daughter. I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder called Myasthenia Gravis over 15 years ago. At the time of my diagnosis my children were toddlers and I was working full-time as a special education teacher in the Eau Claire School District.

After diagnosis, I continued working in that capacity for two years. However, due to my increasing severity in my disease symptoms (extreme muscle weakness, affecting my arms, hands, legs, neck, chewing/talking/swallowing muscles, as well as muscles used for vision and breathing) which interfered with my daily job responsibilities, I was forced to give up my career as a teacher which I had worked hard to attain. I spent the next several years working with different neurologists who recommended different pharmaceutical drug regimens. My disease management was always a tremendous frustration to me because not only did I have the symptoms of the disease itself to deal with, but I was continually dealing with the severe side effects of the high doses of the different medications I was on.

Approximately four years ago, my disease state started to decline to the point that I began researching to locate a neurologist who specialized in my disease. I found a doctor, Dr. E. Tiryaki, in Minneapolis, Minnesota and began treatment under her care. She ordered a specific known treatment, IVIG, for me and I had an *unexpected* allergic reaction that put me in a Myasthenic Crisis where I was hospitalized and in the CCU for a week. I spent the next several months undergoing several outpatient plasmapheresis treatments as

well as adhering to an aggressive drug therapy regimen. It was at this time that I knew I needed to do something different in my life because I did not want to live this way. I spent more time in bed than out of bed. But I wanted to give these ^{medical} treatments a fair chance so I continued with it for one full year after my hospitalization.

The summer of 2008 I went to see Karen Hurd. I told her of my medical history and current condition of my disease control. Upon listening intently and asking many questions, she gave me a nutritional plan that I could begin implementing immediately, while keeping my drug therapies the same. Within three months of adhering strictly to this plan, I began noticing that my good days (few symptoms) outnumbered my bad days (symptoms requiring me to be bed-ridden). Since that time, I have continued to follow the instructions Karen Hurd has given me...my life is completely different. Instead of everyone in my family having to care for me, I can be the wife and mother I have so longed to be. I attend most of my kids' events, I am a volunteer adult leader in their youth group at church and I can do the things I enjoy doing ^{and} caring for my family ^{and others}. So many things that I have not been able to do I can now do because I have the strength and health to do them.

This past year my neurologist, Dr. Tiryaki, has been more than impressed by my "miraculous" improvement. She admits that the reason for my turn around has ^{little} ~~nothing~~ to do with her; "keep doing what you're doing and seeing your nutritionist because it's working," is what she tells me. My doctor loves seeing me as her patient because I am one of her healthiest ones. Since my progress with my nutritional treatment plan, I have been able to decrease my medications by 50% and the trend continues.

with the advisement of my neurologist,
I live with a disease that I will have for the rest of my life. I am truly grateful for the journey I have been on because what I have learned and continue to learn about this life is invaluable. One great nugget of truth, a pearl of wisdom, that I have come to treasure is that had it not been for my personal freedom to choose my treatments within every step of my journey, I literally would not be here today. I am

an educated, intelligent, discerning and capable woman. For many years I sat in the offices of different neurologists, all having their prestigious titles, licenses, degrees and years of training, while they each told me what they thought I needed to best control my disease. In MY experience as a consumer of health care over the past 15 years, it is to my great benefit to not sit in a doctor's office ^{or ANY office} with passivity and a false sense of security as I read all the distinguished framed certificates and licenses hanging on the wall. Instead, it is my right as an individual to ask questions and seek to understand what I am being told. It is then my freedom as a citizen of the United States of America to choose what I believe; to choose what is good and right by my own personal health in determining treatment methods in my disease control. ^{and oversee health management.} This is NOT the place of government to choose for me or to revoke my freedom to choose for myself.

Lisa Kundel
4511 Kensington Court
Eau Claire, WI 54701

I am 100% against SB115 and as a citizen of the state of WI, I ask you, my state ~~representative~~ representatives, to completely drop this action.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lisa Kundel

Senator Krietlow and/
To Whom it May Concern,

In July of 2001, my daughter almost died. It was a phone call in the middle of the night every parent dreads. She had attended LifeFest in Oshkosh, WI & experienced a severe asthma attack.

As I drove from Chippewa Falls to the hospital in Oshkosh, I learned that she had turned blue, passed out & been intubated at the campground. She was lying in the hospital on a vent fighting for her life. She spent 2 1/2 weeks in the hospital on & off the vent before finally being discharged. Her system had been racked & she was now on many steroid medications & inhalers.

The weeks and months that followed were filled with many wonderful Drs - specialists, medications, & more hospitalizations.

Lindsey developed Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome from almost dying

and became sleep deprived with 21 days without sleep. She became depressed and suicidal. After all the asthma medications she was already on, depression meds were added.

One of the side effects of the depression meds was migraines. Of course Lindsey developed them with a very weakened immune system after the trauma.

Another medication was added to take care of her migraines and lo and behold she developed stress-related ~~migr~~ seizures which led to more medications & hospitalizations.

The doctors I consulted were wonderful but I was tired of one medication's side effects leading to new problems & a medication to then take care of that side effect.

I wanted my daughter off this hamster wheel & that's when I contacted Karen Hinch,

a nutritionist.

I had heard about Karen from several ladies from my church whom she had helped.

From the very first appointment, Karen told me why Lindsey had experienced all these symptoms & the reasons why. She also gave me hope Lindsey wouldn't have to continue being this way - something the doctors never believed.

Karen set Lindsey up on a plan of nutrition - healthy eating in a very precise way - no more medications - no more side effects - that was the goal.

Within a few months of following Karen's advice, Lindsey no longer had seizures or migraines or depression. She no longer had to be on any medications except her PRN meds for an asthma attack. The doctors were amazed at her progress, but I wasn't. We were finally done with the band-aids and had gone to the source of her

problems - a weakened immune system.

I do believe there is a place for doctors, a place for medications, a place for dieticians, and a place for nutritionists. Just as all of us develop different illnesses, we also need different & varied ways to combat them. I hope that I will continue to be allowed the freedom to know my families needs and choose the health management that works for us whether that be a dietician or a nutritionist. Without that choice, where would my now 23 year old healthy daughter be today?

I am in opposition to SB 115. Please allow me to continue to have the freedom to take care of my health & consult with whom I wish. Elizabeth Slack

19756 70th Ave

Chippewa Falls, WI
54729

Dear Senator Vinchout

My search for good health was because of my wife's illness. We both went to see Karen Hurd. I realized I would need to make changes in my eating habits in order to make sure my wife was successful.

Please vote against SB115. I was able to find help for Gayle because I had a choice of who I wanted to go too. This bill as it is written will stop that choice.

Gayle had hypersomnia. She had been taking Ritalin for 15 years. Following Karen's advice the sleep disorder went away & ~~she~~ Gayle is no longer taking Ritalin.

As a result of helping Gayle eat right I was told by my doctor to stop taking high blood pressure pills. Karen's advice to me about eating allowed me to stop taking high blood pressure med which I had been taking for 20 years. It took less than a month to be off meds

Danny Dodge

1-715-529-6492

Sept 16, 2009

Attention:

Senator Pat Krutlow;

I have been under the guidance of Karen Wurd since 2008 and have never felt better. I was tired all the time and out of breath on very short walks. Since she quit drinking coffee and not consuming desserts of all kinds; I have alot more energy and it feels great to get up in the morning and not feel bogged down as I used to be. Coffee to get me going and eating unhealthy snacks & foods which raised my cholesterol. And also had a lot of heartburn. Since following her advice. I feel great for a 70 year old woman and happy to say no pain, no heartburn, and I am able to do more than I used to.

My daughter took me on one of her visits to Karen and after listening to her I believed, "this lady knows what she's talking about." She's well respected in the area and she has helped alot of people. Her knowledge and wisdom is outstanding on nutrition and she should be allowed to continue helping people -

Sincerely,

Jane M. Swartz
211 W. Buenvilla St.
Chippewa Falls, WI

54729

Julie Pember Brooke
3818 County Hwy K
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

September 14, 2009

Representative Kristen Dexter,

In October 2008, I finally convinced my OB-GYN to investigate my symptoms of endometriosis. This came years after suffering with the pain that comes with it and the emotional turmoil of not being able to conceive a child after years of trying. My doctor said she would be able to tell if I had endometriosis only after exploratory surgery. I was desperate for a child so I agreed. After the surgery, she acknowledged that my intuition was right and concluded that I do have a significant amount of endometriosis that had connected my reproductive organs together making them unable to function properly. I was told that my best chance for conceiving a child would be in the few months that followed the surgery.

April 2009 I found myself getting ready to try IVF. This method requires many doses of powerful hormones to put my body in a state of menopause. Then by injecting me with more hormones, the plan was to pull my body back into a "normal" cycle where the doctor would then need to perform a surgery to retrieve viable eggs, that would then be united in a petri dish with my husband's sperm, in hopes that a couple of eggs would then be candidates for implanting them back into my uterus. Still desperate, I agreed to give it a try. Of course this would not be covered by our insurance and put us out over \$16,000. By May I had injected myself for weeks of a hormone called Lupron. It made me anxious, irritable, and made me lose track of what I was doing. I didn't feel like myself and was miserable. I talked it over with my husband and told him I would like to stop the IVF treatment and try a more natural approach. I had seen Karen Hurd speak to a group of people about the power of good nutrition and thought she may be able to help me. He agreed to my decision to stop the IVF treatment saying that seeing me talk about Karen was the first time he had seen me smile in weeks.

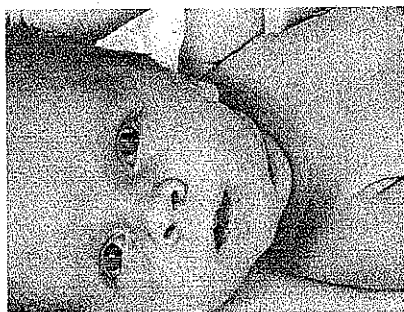
By the end of May I was able to make contact with Karen and she put me on a plan to recovery. Not only from the endometriosis that had plagued me for over 15 years, but also from the Lupron. She was able to explain to me why this hormone was not only making me feel horrible but how it was affecting my body in ways I had not known. After three days I felt like myself again. In the following month I became pregnant!

For years I had followed what the doctors told me. It cost me precious years and thousands of dollars. In one \$85 visit with Karen I was on the way to recovery and pregnant. Priceless.

Obviously I oppose SB115 and its amendments. I am in favor of Health Freedom legislation.

Sincerely,

Julie Pember Brooke and Slate



September 16, 2009

Dear representatives of Wisconsin citizens and taxpayers,

I regret that I could not be at the hearing today, but please count me among the numbers of people present who are opposed to Senate Bill 115. I strongly urge you to kill this bill concerning Restrictive Dietary Licensing Legislation.

I never cease to be amazed at the issues politicians are willing to embrace that are not only virtually useless to the well-being of the average citizen but only serve to further restrict our individual freedoms and intensify control over our personal lives.

What is the real reason for this bill? Are you motivated by concern for the personal health of individuals? Must we be treated like children who are unable to discern right from wrong, good from bad, true from false, real from fake? Must government, once again, be the nanny? If you are sincerely interested in the nutritional well-being of the voters of this state, you would be looking to pass legislation that would shut down grocery and convenience stores that sell dangerous, disease-causing cigarettes; taverns and restaurants that sell disease- and death-causing liquor; doctors and pharmaceutical companies that prescribe and sell prescription drugs that cause dangerous side effects, even death; food companies that sell disease-contributing sugar-laden breakfast foods which many of the most vulnerable in our society consume every day before they head to school.

Since you are doing none of those things to protect us, is it not logical for me to assume that your motives, if this bill is passed, are suspect? That special interests have taken your reason and your conscience hostage?

Several years ago, I was handed a drug prescription by a medical doctor, along with ten pages of information about my condition and the drug. Following is a partial list of adverse reactions: headache, fatigue, dizziness, insomnia, mental confusion, nausea, vomiting, epigastric distress, diarrhea, GI bleeding, hepatotoxicity, lupus-like syndrome. There were as many more symptoms listed that a layperson, like myself, could neither pronounce nor understand. Ironical, isn't it, that some of those very symptoms, if stand-alone, would send people running to a doctor with, "what's wrong with me?" but yet are almost to be expected when resulting from the taking of a prescription drug. The doctor informed me that I would need periodic blood tests because of the drug's potential for damaging my liver, as well as other organs or systems. Now, here's the kicker, and I quote from one of the pages: "...even oral therapy is associated with a high rate of treatment failure and recurrence. Results with long-term oral [drug name] treatment have been disappointing." I could not do much more than conclude the following: I was to take the drug in spite of the fact that I might have nothing to show for it but a continuation of the same symptoms, plus a bad liver. I never filled the prescription, and I am also sure no government goons have raided the doctor's office!

My daughter is currently being treated by a naturopathic professional. Need I remind you of the very personal and confidential doctor-patient relationship that can be vital to the treatment and healing process? Were SB115 to be signed into law, most likely forcing this professional to be unavailable to my child, it would be devastating to her; and it could very well mean a relapse of her symptoms (which have been continually improving) and lost time spent in having to research other alternatives. Passage of this bill would severely limit our choices. Not only would it have zero positive impact on the overall health of Wisconsin citizens, it would most likely result in increased health problems for individuals who have been, or are being, helped by professionals that this bill attempts to ultimately suppress.

It is beyond me why any of you would even care what health care choices individuals pursue, and why you would want to restrict those choices with this bill; thus, if SB115 passes, I can only conclude that the lust for power and control over people's individual choices has dulled, if not obliterated, your consciences. What a sad commentary on our society that, if this bill is passed, we may find it much easier to seek out a doctor who can kill an unborn child in the womb than a practitioner who can hand us a vitamin!

WHY DO YOU CARE? Protect us only where we cannot protect ourselves; otherwise,
STAY OUT OF OUR LIVES!!!

Sincerely,

Doris Rindfleisch

W153 N5264 Plaza Drive

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

262-781-3113

September 16, 2009

Dear representatives of Wisconsin citizens and taxpayers,

I regret that I could not be at the hearing today, but please count me among the numbers of people present who are opposed to Senate Bill 115. I strongly urge you to kill this bill concerning Restrictive Dietary Licensing Legislation.

I never cease to be amazed at the issues politicians are willing to embrace that are not only virtually useless to the well-being of the average citizen but only serve to further restrict our individual freedoms and intensify control over our personal lives.

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Since you are doing none of those things to protect us, is it not logical for me to assume that your motives, if this bill is passed, are suspect? That special interests have taken your reason and your conscience hostage?

Several years ago, I was handed a drug prescription by a medical doctor, along with ten pages of information about my condition and the drug. Following is a partial list of adverse reactions: headache, fatigue, dizziness, insomnia, mental confusion, nausea, vomiting, epigastric distress, diarrhea, GI bleeding, hepatotoxicity, lupus-like syndrome. There were as many more symptoms listed that a layperson, like myself, could neither pronounce nor understand. Ironical, isn't it, that some of those very symptoms, if stand-alone, would send people running to a doctor with, "what's wrong with me?" but yet are almost to be expected when resulting from the taking of a prescription drug. The doctor informed me that I would need periodic blood tests because of the drug's potential for damaging my liver, as well as other organs or systems. Now, here's the kicker, and I quote from one of the pages: "...even oral therapy is associated with a high rate of treatment failure and recurrence. Results with long-term oral [drug name] treatment have been disappointing." I could not do much more than conclude the following: I was to take the drug in spite of the fact that I might have nothing to show for it but a continuation of the same symptoms, plus a bad liver. I never filled the prescription, and I am also sure no government goons have raided the doctor's office!

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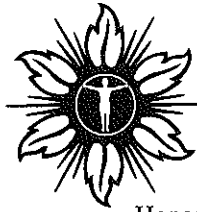
Sincerely,

Doris Rindfleisch

W153 N5264 Plaza Drive

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

262-781-3113



The Coalition for Natural Health

September 17, 2009

Honorable Tim Carpenter, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation
Room 306 South
State Capitol
PO Bo 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Why Dietitian Licensing Is Bad For Wisconsin?

The Coalition for Natural Health (CNH) is a broad-based group of organizations and individuals in the natural health field who share a common goal: to promote the holistic approach to health and to ensure that natural health alternatives remain widely accessible to the public.

A sound nutritional base lies at the heart of any program designed to improve health. There are various perspectives as to what constitutes an optimum diet, many of them similar as to their major points. The differences are frequently in the details, rather than in the broader issues. People are not all the same, and the diet that is perfect for one may be wrong for another. It is most important to remember that nutrition is an area that contains many different, but equally valid, points of view. Keeping these ideas in mind, consider the problem of licensing dietitians as the only group allowed to dispense information and advice about nutrition.

First there is the question of licensure itself. Proponents claim that licensure protects the public. Yet licensure is no assurance of quality. Moreover, there has been no documented instance of a nutritionist or nutrition counselor, or the like, harming anyone through educational efforts and thus no compelling case to be made for licensure. One thing is certain: licensure protects those who are licensed and the special interest groups behind them. In this case, it would give one group, dietitians, a virtual monopoly on dispensing nutrition information and advice, while making it illegal for others to do so.

Dietitians work chiefly in the areas of food systems management, planning school lunches or hospital meals, feeding large numbers of people for the least cost. Dietitians use their training on occasion to formulate specific meal plans for some people who have specific health problems, for example kidney disease. There are many perspectives on nutrition for which most dietitians simply have no training and, therefore, can never recommend. Yet these nutritional philosophies--such as organic foods, whole foods and vegetarian--have definite health benefits.

Today, people may obtain advice about nutrition from many sources--dietitians, nutritionists, naturopaths, alternative health practitioners, chiropractors, nurses and dentists, to name a few. Each of these practitioners is likely to have a somewhat different point of view, and each is able to give sound advice. A strict licensure law would narrow the scope of information that is available to the public by greatly restricting the number of professionals who can legally advise others about their diets.

If Senate Bill 115 were signed into law, then dietitians would be licensed as the sole providers of nutrition information to the public. This would:

- # Protect individuals who are part of a small, special-interest group.
- # Hurt individuals whose training and philosophy constitute different points of view.
- # Limit the public's access to a wide range of valid information about nutrition.
- # Disrupt the practices of many qualified professionals, other than dietitians, who currently dispense nutrition advice.

If the field remains unlicensed, there will be:

- # An open and fair marketplace for nutrition information.
- # Lower costs to consumers.
- # More scope for diversity using valid approaches to nutrition.

Dietetics' licensure is bad for most nutrition practitioners, bad for the public and bad for Wisconsin. We urge you to vote against SB 115. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Boyd J. Landry
Executive Director

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cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation

Dear Senators and Representatives,
I reside in Sen Kreitlow's and Rep Wood's District and have business interests in Fall Creek, Strum and Gilman, WI (each community's nursing home is owned or co-owned by myself).

As I understand, SB 115 has been introduced and will have the effect of prohibiting, among other things, Nutritional Counseling by other than a Registered Dietician or other similarly "credentialed" professional. As a "Certified" Social Worker who has been involved in the field for more than 35 years, including prior to "certification" requirements I can tell you firsthand that "certification" does NOT equal quality or consistency. I also am a "Licensed" Nursing Home Administrator of over thirty years. Other than setting up a complicated bureacracy, a review board and, of course, semi-annual "licensing fees" there is no correlation to quality or competency.

My wife has been an insulin dependent diabetic for over thirty years. Last January she started seeing a private Nutritional Consultant, Karen Hurd in Fall Creek, WI. Ms. Hurd is a former Military Officer, holds two undergraduate degrees and I believe a Masters and is now working on her PhD in Nutrition. She has helped hundreds of clients achieve a much improved life style through nutritional counseling, using only NATURAL foods, no drugs or radical herbal supplements (but lots of beans!!). As a result of her efforts and working closely with my wife's Endricrinologist my wife, Mary Lee, no longer takes insulin shots, enjoys far more stable blood sugars and has lost 35#. As a side benefit, I also shared my wife's diet and lost 25# which we have both kept off for several months now.

I work with Registered Dieticians at my nursing homes weekly as well as Certified Dietary Managers at each facility. I am not aware of any abuses or problems that would demand such a radical solution. It sounds more to me like the professional Dietician lobby has decided to promote job security like the multiple "regulated" professions before them.

Please advise me as to the critical public interest that requires another layer of bureacracy and administrative rule-making to protect us from choice, options and a wholistic approach to health and well-being. We are finally starting to come to grips with consequences of this country's poor eating habits: obesity, heart-disease, diabetes and it seems to me we should be welcoming all the support and options available to us.

I understand that Karen Hurd is setting up visits to your Madison offices on September 17, which I unfortunately won't be able to attend. I hope you or your staff will have the opportunity to listen to her perspective.

Thank you for your consideration and I will be looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John (Jack) Halbleib
4705 145th St
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Phone 715-723-0516

Administrator and Owner - Fall Creek Valley Care Center Owner - Crystal Lake Manor, Strum, WI Co-owner - Gilman Care Center, Gilman, WI

I am sorry that I cannot make the trip with you. I have however, sent the following to both Senator Jauch and representative Hubler:

"Hello,

I am writing to ask you to please vote NO on bill SB115, the bill that would prohibit nutritionists and others from giving nutritional counsel. I have been seeing Karen Hurd for almost a year and a half and have never been to a doctor or dietician that has helped me as much as she has. I was a type 2 diabetic with high blood pressure, extreme triglyceride levels and horrible cholesterol counts.

I was taking a handful of pills twice a day, being told that I needed more and that I was going to have to start taking Insulin shots. Thanks to Karen's extreme knowledge of the way the human body works and her sound advice, I am now back to normal and take no meds. It was her counsel and genuine concern that finally made all the difference in my life. And for the record, my doctor has supported my decisions and has been amazed at what Karen and I have accomplished. Without her and others like her, many people will no longer get the type of care that they need.

Again, I ask you to vote NO on SB115 and its amendments and support Health Freedom legislation.

Thank you for your time and support,

Jay Lovelady
2985 9 5/8th Ave.
Chetek, WI 54728

Dear Senator Kreitlow and Representative Dexter,

There is a hearing on Sept 17, I believe, that will be about a bill SB115, in support of the ADA (American Dietetic Association) and its practices. Speaking from direct personal experience, I urge you to reject this bill.

The reason is because there is an alternative to the ADA, called Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition. I have been treated by one of the nutritionists that belongs to this coalition. She remedied a particularly painful condition that I suffered with for several years that was a result of shingles .

Given the status of health care in our country at this time, I think it only makes sense to allow citizens the ability to choose among other alternatives to the ADA. As I understand it, SB115 would make it virtually impossible to consult a nutritionist for food advice. I believe that this is a mistake.

I am sorry that I cannot attend the hearing personally, but hope that you will strongly consider my opinion. Without the benefit of sound nutritional advice, I am convinced that I would be disabled. I will be glad to provide details if you contact me.

Sincerely,

Charlie Brovan
1608 Aylmer Court
Eau Claire 54703
715-832-2327

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)
September 12, 2009

9-15-2006

Jeff Smith
93rd Assembly District
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Jeff Smith,

I am writing regarding the Bill SB115.
I would like this bill killed. Its
really unfair.

My Nutritionist, Karen R. Hurd has done
more for me in 26 days than the doctors
have done in 2 1/2 years. I'm really
on my way to recovery.

When there is something good like
the nutritionists, why do we have
to give them up. I thought this
was a free country.

Please take this letter as
a vote against the bill SB115.

Sincerely
Donna M Blum
3319 Alf Court
Eau Claire, WI 54601
Phone 715-831-1957



SANDY PASCH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Senate Bill 115 Testimony of Representative Sandy Pasch September 17, 2009

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. As the lead Assembly cosponsor of Senate Bill 115, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this legislation.

Senate Bill 115 will help guarantee that only qualified individuals are providing evidence-based nutrition therapy for the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases or medical conditions. Creating a scope of practice for these highly trained nutrition experts will help ensure patient safety, increase access to quality healthcare, and help individuals easily identify properly trained and educated nutrition professionals.

It is my firm belief that registered dietitians are uniquely qualified to provide evidence-based nutrition therapy, and their unique education and experience should be recognized through licensure of their specialized practice. All registered dietitians are required to at least hold a bachelor's degree and complete 900 hours of supervised practice, pass a standardized national exam, and maintain continuing education.

Especially during these tough economic times, more and more individuals are obtaining medical treatment outside traditional healthcare facilities. Consequently, there is a need to increase transparency of provider credentials for members of the public when they are obtaining services. This legislation will help prevent confusion and potential harm for health care consumers who deserve to know if their nutrition services are being provided by individuals qualified to do so

It is important to ensure that this bill will not prohibit highly-trained individuals from providing valuable health information to their clients. We must continue to maintain access to valuable nutrition information, but in turn we must work to ensure the health and safety of those seeking these services. Therefore, there is a clause in this bill which exempts alternative practitioners from providing their clients with information on healthy lifestyles or general nutrition information regarding the use of foods and dietary supplements.

As a nurse, I recognize the importance of increasing access to quality healthcare while ensuring patient safety, and this bill will work to do just that.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and allowing me to testify on its behalf.